

10 May 1999

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}A Letter from Hagood's Crossroads, Alabama....

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} "We Will Defend Ourselves"

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}or: The Anti-Gun "Propaganda of the Lie": A Letter In Response To

}An Outrageous Cartoon in The Memphis Commercial Appeal.

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}8 May 1999

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}The Commercial Appeal

}495 Union Avenue Memphis, TN 38103

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}To: David Cushman, Editor CC: Bill Day, Blackhearted Liberal

}Propagandist, Esq.

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}Sirs,

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}It wasn't until I saw Bill Day's editorial cartoon in your paper

} (MCA, 27 April 99) that I realized that someday soon I'm going to

} have to defend myself with more than words in order to hang onto

} my Second Amendment rights. For that dose of reality, I thank you.

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}The calculated propaganda of portraying a skull-and-crossbones

} black flag labeled "NRA" flying above Old Glory was to me

} infuriating beyond words (though I am not a member of the National

} Rifle Association) but ultimately enlightening. I had just

} finished reading an opinion piece by Dr. Arthur Caplan, bioethicist

} from the University of Pennsylvania, which compared guns to deadly

} viruses. In Dr. Caplan's universe, law-abiding gunowners like me

} are presumably "Typhoid Marys" deserving of government quarantine.

} Caplan concluded, "It is time to start a public health war on guns."

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}But it was only when I saw Day's cartoon that I recognized the

} familiar pattern-- "The enemy is a virus; the enemy is diseased;

} the enemy distributes poison; the enemy pollutes the nation."

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}You know, Hitler and his friends did the same thing to the Jews --

} demonized them, justified their murder, disarmed them so they could

} be murdered without fear, and then, finally, murdered them. Every

} single genocide of this century has been preceded by forced

} disarmament of the target population. Demonize, Disarm, Destroy --

} these are the "Three Ds" of collectivism, whether of the Nazi,

} Communist or tribal variety. I'll bet the Kosovars wish they had

} the right to keep and bear arms.

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}The law-abiding gunowners-- conservatives and libertarians, devout
}Christians and observant Jews (such as those in the gun rights
}advocacy group, Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership) --
}who hold the Constitution sacred and non-negotiable, have long
}labored under the illusion that if we could just get you liberals
}to stop knee-jerking and consider the facts and fallacies of gun
}control, you would see the error of your ways. Facts such as those
}presented by the studies of social scientists John Lott and Gary
}Kleck -- studies which demonstrate that guns are used in the
}overwhelming majority of cases by armed citizens to deter crime
}rather than by criminals to commit crimes; studies which
}demonstrate that concealed carry laws discourage crime dramatically
}by causing criminals to move to safer "gun-free zones" like the
}Long Island Railway or Columbine High School.
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}Likewise, gun-ban-happy liberals labor under the illusion that
}any unconstitutional law that they can contrive to pass by media
}manipulation and legislative sleight-of-hand with the assistance
}of brainless, spineless Republicans will be obeyed by the heretofore
}law-abiding gunowners they seek to disarm.
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}But you are making a fatal error to extrapolate our predicted
}behavior from your own cowardice. Just because liberals no longer
}have principles for which they are prepared to die doesn't mean
}that we don't. Truly, you should be careful what you wish for,
}you may get it. For those who are willing to die for their
}principles are often willing to kill in defense of them as well.
}Don't pray for an elephant if you haven't the room to keep it.
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}On our part, we have over-estimated your receptiveness to facts
}and logic. Post-modern liberals, like their collectivist
}predecessors, have their minds made up about gun confiscation --
}just ask Rosie O'Donnell. Cartoons like Day's make it plain that
}the propaganda of the lie is once again in vogue. Facts, logic
}and argument are useless against someone parroting the party line,
}especially if its "for the children."
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}Indeed, medical malpractice kills more Americans every year than
}auto accidents and gunshots combined, even counting those in
}legitimate self-defense. But it is not the American Medical
}Association which Day labels as poison in his Hitlerian
}propaganda. Sadly, neither side is listening to the other any
}longer, and it is out of such fundamental inabilities to
}communicate that wars are made of.
}So, I'd like to thank Mr. Day for removing the last of my

}illusions that anything less than deadly force will suffice in
}defense of Americans' traditional liberties against such blatant
}lies and willful illogic.

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}But may I return the favor? Though Mr. Day may play Josef
}Goebbels with pen-and-ink, he should have no illusions about
}his intended victims -- America's law-abiding gunowners. If your
}propaganda is successful with your own kind, it has no power of
}persuasion with us. Come for our guns, and we will defend
}ourselves. That's what the Founders told King George, and after
}they'd killed enough Redcoats, King George listened.

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}Let me repeat so there is no misunderstanding -- come for our
}guns, and we'll defend ourselves. Now go doodle a cartoon about
}THAT. As for me, I'm through arguing about self-evident truths.
}Nobody's listening anyway. Nor will they, until the next "shot
}heard 'round the world" is fired. May the Lord grant you mercy,
}Grace and wisdom. If you proceed on your present agenda, you'll
}need it.

}

}Sincerely,

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}"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom"

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